

September 30, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING (OCJP), FOR THE DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY'S JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT  
(JAIBG)/JUVENILE OFFENDER INTERVENTION NETWORK (JOIN) PROGRAM,  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004, (ALL DISTRICTS – 4 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Adopt the enclosed Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to accept grant funds, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, from the State OCJP, to implement the JAIBG/JOIN Program. The District Attorney's Office has been awarded \$1,032,969, with a required 10 percent match of \$114,774, totaling \$1,147,743 annually, for a two-year period from June 30, 2003 through June 30, 2005.
2. Approve the attached Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$1,033,000, for Fiscal Year 2003-04, to allocate spending authority necessary to operate the program. Grant funding for the remaining \$1,033,000 for year two will be included in the District Attorney's budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05.
3. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.

4. Authorize the District Attorney, or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as Project Director, and to sign and approve any revisions to the Grant Award Agreement that do not affect the net County cost of the Agreement.
5. Authorize the District Attorney, pursuant to County Code Section 6.06.020, to hire the following "N" items: nine Hearing Officers, one Senior Hearing Officer, one Staff Assistant I, and one Senior Legal Office Support Assistant assigned to the JOIN Program.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In February 2003, the District Attorney's Office made a presentation to the State OCJP to expand the existing JOIN program under the JAIBG allocation to ten juvenile court offices within Los Angeles County. Recently, the District Attorney's Office received notification from OCJP of awarded funding for a two-year funding cycle. A Request for Application was submitted to OCJP on June 30, 2003, to initiate the Grant Award Agreement process.

JOIN's goal is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their criminal activities. In addition, by promptly taking responsibility for their actions, making restitution to their victim(s), performing community service, attending school regularly and participating in counseling and parenting programs, youth and their parents are offered an alternative to juvenile court.

#### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The focus of this program is consistent with the County's Vision and Strategic Plan in support of the County's "public safety and juvenile crime control within the community". This program creates a partnership among various communities, school districts, law enforcement and other county agencies to deter juvenile crime through intervention.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The total cost of this Program is \$1,147,114, which includes a required match of \$114,774. The State OCJP will fund 90 percent of the program or \$1,032,969. \$1,147,114 of the funds will be expended in 2003-04. Notification of award was recently received; therefore, these funds have not been included in the District Attorney's 2003-04 budget. Enclosed is the required Budget Adjustment which details how the funds will be utilized.

Second-year funding of \$1,033,000 will be included in the District Attorney's 2004-05 budget.

If funding for this Program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant-budgeted positions.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's JOIN Program is currently the *only* program in the Los Angeles County juvenile justice system which provides swift intervention and accountability before juvenile court filing for youth ages 10-17 who have committed a fileable, non-violent first time offense. In the absence of JOIN, these juvenile offenders typically receive inadequate attention from the juvenile justice system because their crimes are considered "too serious" for informal probation (WIC §654), yet "not serious enough" to be closely monitored in the overburdened juvenile courts.

The JOIN Program will be coordinated by nine experienced Hearing Officers who will be assigned to ten juvenile offices in the following communities: Eastlake (East Los Angeles), Pasadena, Pomona, Sylmar, Compton, Inglewood, Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center (South Central Los Angeles), Long Beach, Antelope Valley and Los Padrinós (Downey). Due to the lower number of anticipated cases eligible for JOIN, one Hearing Officer will cover both Kenyon and Compton juvenile courts. A Senior Hearing Officer will supervise the JOIN Hearing Officers and Memorandums of Understanding will be entered into with school districts and community based organizations in each community for delivery of support services.

These funds will cover the costs of salary and employee benefits for twelve full-time positions and one part-time position. Additionally, funding will provide required OCJP training and conferences for the newly hired JOIN staff in facilitation and mediation techniques, and community agency interaction and procedural training with local law enforcement and school district policies. Funds will also be used to subcontract an experienced evaluation consultant to assess the process and outcomes of the new JOIN JAIBG expansion implementation. Remaining funds will cover local mileage, equipment and program material purchases.

The entire community benefits when these youth are held accountable for their actions and do not re-offend. Without effective intervention, these offenders have a high probability of recidivism.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
September 30, 2003  
Page Four

In 1999, the JOIN Program received an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties, for recognition of innovative achievement in Juvenile Justice. We have also received written acknowledgment and support from the Los Angeles County Superior Court for program effectiveness and cost savings to the court's juvenile justice system.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The JOIN program does not propose attorney staff augmentation. Therefore, the District Attorney's Office is not subject to the Board motion of December 15, 1998, requiring clearance with Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender and Sheriff's Departments.

**CONCLUSION**

Following Board approval of these grant funds, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two copies of the adopted Board letter and Resolution, containing original signatures, to Patricia Orozco, Contracts and Grants Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Orozco at (213) 202-7651 or via email at [porozco@da.co.la.ca.us](mailto:porozco@da.co.la.ca.us).

Very truly yours,

STEVE COOLEY  
District Attorney

pao

Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Department of Human Resources  
District Attorney Technical Services Unit  
District Attorney Operations Unit

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**RESOLUTION**

Accepting State of California  
Office of Criminal Justice Planning  
Grant Funds Awarded Pursuant to  
Juvenile Offender Intervention Network Program

**WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles is charged with providing vital services in the area of courts, law enforcement, and adult and juvenile justice to a population in excess of ten million persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles, Office of the District Attorney, is authorized, pursuant to Government Code Section 26500.5, to participate in any project or program to improve the administration of justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles, acting through its Board of Supervisors, desire to continue a certain project designated the “Juvenile Offender Intervention Network” Program, which is allocated from funds made available through a yearly federal appropriation under the “Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant”, administered by the State of California, Office of Criminal Justice Planning (hereinafter referred to as “OCJP”); to financially assist programs in promoting greater accountability of juveniles in the juvenile justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, the State OCJP desires to award grant funds to the County of Los Angeles to continue prosecutorial efforts by the District Attorney’s JOIN Program to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their criminal activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office has sole independent prosecutorial discretion to determine which matters should be filed as

1 criminal cases and to accord objectives and impartial consideration to each individual  
2 case, including options relating to pleas and sentencing.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of  
4 the County of Los Angeles hereby approves acceptance of grant funds from the State of  
5 California, OCJP, for Fiscal Years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005; to be used exclusively for  
6 the designated program, which is awarded for a two-year funding cycle, pursuant to the  
7 Grant Award Agreement;

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the  
9 County of Los Angeles hereby authorizes the District Attorney or his designee, to serve  
10 as Project Director, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, and to sign and approve the  
11 Grant Award Agreement including any extensions, augmentations, or submission of  
12 amendments, progress reports and payment requests relating to the Grant Award  
13 Agreement;

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County of Los Angeles agrees not  
15 to use the aforementioned grant funds to supplant local expenditures controlled by this  
16 body;

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County agrees to provide any  
18 matching funds required for said project (including any amendment thereof) under the  
19 program and the funding terms and conditions of OCJP and that the cash match will be  
20 appropriated as required;

21 **IT IS AGREED** that liability arising out of the performance of this Grant  
22 Award Agreement, including civil court actions for damages, shall be the responsibility  
23 of the grant recipient and the authorizing agency. The State of California and OCJP  
24 disclaim responsibility for any such liability.

25 ///

26 ///

1                   **I DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that at a regular meeting of the Board of  
2 Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
3 2003, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

4                   **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed  
5 the seal of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles  
6 this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

7   VIOLETA VARONA-LUKENS, Executive Officer-  
8 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of  
9 the County of Los Angeles

10  
11  
12   By \_\_\_\_\_  
13   Deputy

14  
15 **APPROVED AS TO FORM**

16 **BY COUNTY COUSEL:**

17  
18 **LLOYD W. PELLMAN**

19  
20 By \_\_\_\_\_  
21   Deputy

**Department:** District Attorney

The JOIN Program will address the problem of non-violent, first time offenders for diversion from the juvenile court process to a program that offers immediate intervention and accountability without formal prosecution by experienced District Attorney Hearing Officers assigned to ten juvenile courts in Los Angeles County. JOIN's goal is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their criminal activities. By promptly taking responsibility for their actions, making restitution to their victim(s), performing community service, attending school regularly and participating in counseling and parenting programs, youth and their parents are offered an alternative to juvenile court. The entire community benefits when these youth are held accountable for their actions and do not re-offend. Without effective intervention, these offenders have a high probability of recidivism.

**Department Head Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** September 30, 2003